

Message Text

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SUBJECT: TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEE CASE: HANGLIDERS

REF: (A) TOKYO 10249 (B) STATE 154969

SUMMARY. FOLLOWING IS DRAFT TEXT OF TRADE FACILITATION
COMMITTEE (TFC) CASE ON HANGLIDER WHICH EMBASSY PLANS TO
SUBMIT TO MITI. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBASSY APPRECIATES WASHINGTON'S BACKGROUND INFORMATION
ON HANGLIDERS. TEXT OF TFC CASE WE PLAN TO SUBMIT TO MITI
FOLLOWS.

2. BEGIN TEXT. SUMMARY OF CASE. THE JAPANESE HANGLIDER
ASSOCIATION (JHA) IS THE PRIMARY IMPORTER OF AMERICAN-MADE
HANGLIDERS INTO JAPAN. THE IMPORT QUOTA AND TARIFF
IMPOSED BY THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT ACT AS DETERRENTS TO
THE FREE ENTRY OF HANGLIDERS INTO THE JAPANESE MARKET.
THE U.S. GOVERNMENT REQUESTS THAT A REVISION OF THE
QUOTA AND TARIFF REGULATIONS BE MADE TO BRING JAPANESE
IMPORT REQUIREMENTS INTO LINE WITH THOSE IN FORCE IN THE
UNITED STATES.

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FACTS OF THE CASE: JHA HAS BEEN IMPORTING AMERICAN-MADE
HANGLIDERS INTO JAPAN FOR SEVERAL YEARS. THE PRESENT
VOLUME OF SUCH IMPORTS IS RELATIVELY SMALL, BUT IS
EXPECTED TO GROW AS THE SPORT OF HANGLIDING BECOMES MORE
POPULAR IN JAPAN. AT THE PRESENT TIME, A QUOTA IS
IMPOSED UPON IMPORTED HANGLIDERS, AND THE IMPORTER MUST

APPLY TO THE MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE FINANCE
IN EACH INSTANCE FOR PERMISSION TO IMPORT EACH GLIDER.
ADDITIONALLY, A 12 PERCENT TARIFF (TARIFF NUMBER 88.02)
IS LEVIED ON EACH HANGLIDER IMPORTED INTO JAPAN.

DISCUSSION: THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT'S QUOTA RESTRICTION
ON IMPORTED HANGLIDERS IS BOTHERSOME TO IMPORTERS AND
IMPEDES THE DISTRIBUTION OF THIS PRODUCT FROM
MANUFACTURERS TO END USERS. THE JAPANESE IMPORT QUOTA
ON HANGLIDERS APPEARS TO BE BASED ON A GENERAL QUOTA ON
AIRCRAFT, WITHIN WHICH CATEGORY JAPAN INCLUDES HANGLIDERS.
THE UNITED STATES ALSO CLASSIFIES HANGLIDERS AS AIRCRAFT
(HEAVIER-THAN-AIR AIRCRAFT, INCLUDING AIRPLANES,
GLIDERS AND KITES), BUT DOES NOT IMPOSE A QUOTA ON THEM.
HANGLIDERS IMPORTED INTO JAPAN ARE ALSO SUBJECT TO A
12 PERCENT TARIFF. BY COMPARISON, THE TARIFF ON THIS
CATEGORY IN THE UNITED STATES IS 4.5 PERCENT FOR SELF-
LAUNCHED, FREE FLYING GLIDERS (TARIFF NUMBER 694.20).
RELIEF SOUGHT: THE QUESTION OF HANGLIDERS IMPORTED FROM
THE UNITED STATES INTO JAPAN WAS DISCUSSED BY THE
AMERICAN EMBASSY AND THE MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE
AND INDUSTRY (MITI) OVER TWO YEARS AGO AND, WE UNDERSTAND,
HAS BEEN UNDER CONSIDERATION BY MITI AND THE MINISTRY OF
TRANSPORTATION (MOT) SINCE THAT TIME. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT
WOULD LIKE TO JOIN IN A REVIEW OF THIS SUBJECT WITH A
VIEW TOWARD FACILITATING THE ENTRY OF AMERICAN-MADE
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HANGLIDERS INTO JAPAN.

THE U.S. GOVERNMENT REQUESTS THAT MITI, MOT AND ANY
OTHER RELEVANT MINISTRIES OR AGENCIES REVIEW THE CURRENT
REQUIREMENTS FOR IMPORTING HANGLIDERS, WITH SPECIAL
ATTENTION TO THE QUOTA AND TARIFF RATES WHICH ARE NOW
IMPOSED ON THESE PRODUCTS, AND ADJUST THESE REQUIREMENTS
SO AS TO ELIMINATE IMPEDIMENTS TO SUCH IMPORTS AND MAKE
THEM COMPARABLE TO REGULATIONS IN FORCE IN THE UNITED
STATES. END TEXT.

3. WASHINGTON COMMENTS WELCOME. MANSFIELD

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